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- ← Put your primary effort into reading the original, rather than commentaries
 - ! Work from the "best" overview, initially
 - If possible, use translator's and editor's notes
 - ! Supplement it at a later point with
 - other commentaries,
 - examine the controversies
- ← Outline and summarize the main ideas
 - ! Stick to the "big ideas"
 - ! Don't nit-pick; be generous
 - ! Start with the introduction and conclusion (quick overview)
 - ! Quickly review the notes and bibliography, appendixes
 - ! Analyze the methodology
 - What is it?
 - Does it seem adequate?
- ← Draw on your previous knowledge
 - ! Make up your own mind; be open to change
- ← Ask others
 - ! People who are informed
 - ! Not informed, but interested
 - Try explaining the ideas (social, conversation)
- ← Be aware of the entire range of someone's work
 - ! If reading in translation, be aware of the entire body of work in the original language
 - ! But concentrate, at first, on the key texts
 - ! Understand the trajectory of the person's career
 - Obituaries, summaries, etc.

- ! Use: bookstores (tangible and virtual)
- ! online sources (retail and academic)
- ! library resources
 - early on, try to work in a major library or a consortium library
- ← Understand the historical and local context
 - ! For this, commentaries may be important
- ← Understand the disposition of thinkers at the time
 - ! Predecessors, teachers
 - ! Colleagues, collaborators, students
 - ! Rivals
 - ! critics
 - ! Opponents
 - ! Look for what may be hidden, forgotten, taken-for-granted (timeline, chronology)
- ← Understand the thinker's reception (timeline, chronology)
 - ! Critical
 - ! Academic
 - ! Translation
 - ! Commentary, interpretation, use
 - Case studies in extension
 - ! France: Foucault, Derrida, Deleuze (and Guatarri), Sartre, Lévi-Strauss, Althusser, Baudrillard, Barthes, Kristeva & Tel Quel, etc.
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- ← Compare others dealing with the same issues from
 - ! Other disciplines
 - ! Other nations, intellectual traditions
 - ! Anglo-US:
 - 1. Raymond Williams, Stuart Hall and British Cultural Studies
 - 2. Other UK sociology of culture:
 - Theory, Culture & Society
 - Media, Culture, and Society
 - 3. US: Herbert Gans, Howard Becker
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